



St. John's Episcopal Church

Arlington, Virginia

November 27, 2022 9 am

Morning Prayer: First Sunday of Advent

Regular Sunday services begin at 9 am

Christmas Eve: St. John's, 5 pm only; St. Patrick's, music at 7 pm, service at 7:30 pm

There will be no service at either church on December 25

Page references are to the red Book of Common Prayer. Music is indicated by "S" for service music (front of blue Hymnal), "#" for hymns (back of blue Hymnal), "L" for hymns from Lift Every Voice and Sing, and "WLP" for hymns from Wonder, Love, and Praise.

Prelude: *Prelude on a Folk Tune* Gilbert M. Martin

Thank you for observing a meditative silence during the Prelude.

The Greeting: Sandy Winger, Sr. Warden

Opening Hymn: "Lo! he comes, with clouds descending" #58

The People remain standing through the Collect of the Day

An Advent Bidding Prayer

Presider: Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look; forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country and in our community.

And because God particularly loves them, let us

remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely, and aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love; the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the Kin of Angels bring us all.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Presider: Let us offer the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent: *BCP, p. 211*

During the prayer the first candle in the Advent wreath is lighted.

All: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Please be seated.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 2:2-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Psalm 122

Reader: 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

People: 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Reader: 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

People: 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.

Reader: 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

People: 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you."

Reader: 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

People: 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

Reader: 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *

I will seek to do you good."

Gospel Hymn: "Christ is the world's true Light"

#542

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Sermon: Prof. Pat Bleicher

The Apostles' Creed

BCP, p. 96

Presider and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us offer the prayer Our Lord taught us,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, *BCP, p. 97*
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP, p. 98

Presider: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

People: Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Presider: Day by day we bless you;

People: We praise your name for ever.

Presider: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

People: Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

People: For we put our trust in you.

Presider: In you, Lord, is our hope;

People: And we shall never hope in vain.

Presider: Let us pray together:

BCP, p. 99

All: O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, p. 101

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Presider: Now let us offer our individual prayers of intercession, petition and thanksgiving, silently or aloud. . . .

The reading of the Parish Prayer List

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP, p. 102

All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "The King shall come when morning dawns" #73

Announcements

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into the world in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Simple Gifts* Russell Schulz-Widmar

Participants in Today's Service

Officiant: Cassandra Winger

Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson

Organist: Judith Marcinko

Guest Organist: Carol Dunlap

Preacher: Prof. Pat Bleicher

Reader: Carol Dunlap

Prayers: Lisa Pope

Intinction Cup Bearer: Sandy Winger

Altar Guild: Eileen Tallent

Sound/Live-Stream: Pete Olivere

Senior Warden: Sandy Winger

Please contact her at

srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or by calling 703-498-6990.

Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson

Please contact her at

office@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or by calling 703-671-6834.

Live-Stream Worship Continues on Sundays. We continue to use the following Zoom access link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElnYnpDZ1N2ZVFSWDNlK0ZDUT09>

and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. The password is still 2020. Any other information remains the same. If you can't copy the link, go to zoom.com/join and enter Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.

If you don't have Zoom on your device you will need to do that prior to the service.

Announcements

WELCOME: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and newcomers.

Please Observe Meditative Silence During the Prelude. We are a very friendly, welcoming congregation! There is a need to have a quiet transition into worship. So please, during the Prelude. . . let's be quiet and prepare for worship.

Join Us Today for Fellowship after Worship! Everyone is invited to go downstairs to the undercroft following worship for coffee and fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the AFAC Thanksgiving Food Drive.

This year's pledge campaign ends today! Please be sure to place your card in the collections basket or mail it to St. John's in the enclosed envelope.

We are looking for volunteers in all categories, but especially ushers, tellers, and fellowship. If you have any interest, please contact the office at office@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or at 703-671-6834.

Our new rector, The Rev. Julie D. Bryant, will celebrate her first Eucharist with us **next Sunday!** For more information about her, go to our website www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Sign-up sheet for Fellowship. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board just inside the Church door in the narthex. You can choose a week to do by yourself or you can share a Sunday with someone. Speak with Sandy Winger about any Covid-related restrictions.

St. Patrick's Invites St. John's Parishioners to a Swinging Holiday Celebration on Saturday, **December 3**, 2 to 5 pm at Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042.

2:00 to 2:30 pm: Beginners' swing dance lesson by Debbie and Bob Lew.

2:30 to 4:30 pm: Live music by Starlight Jazztet (Maureen McDonnell, vocal; Halley Shoenberg, clarinet/Alto saxophone; Mariko Hiller, piano; Don Chirieleison, bass; Greg Williams, drums).

Admission: \$25, includes wine/soft drinks, and snacks. Cash, credit cards or checks at the door. Free for students and children.

The proceeds will be donated to St. Patrick's for church maintenance in gratitude for their provision of a free venue for the Odeon Chamber Music Series.

For more information, contact Mariko at marikohiller@gmail.com

COVID Precautions Continue

- Masks are OPTIONAL now
- All Other Protocols Remain in Effect

St. John's continues to follow the guidelines for Arlington County and Diocesan recommendations.

Masks are optional. Questions: Please contact Sandy Winger, Senior Warden

(srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). Take Note!

We support anyone who chooses to continue wearing a mask and will offer our live-stream option for those at home.

- Please notify Cassandra Winger if you discover that you had COVID during this worship service or for a 2-week period following your worship with us.

Pastoral Care during the Interim Period. Please contact Sr. Warden Sandy Winger, contact info below.

Church Leadership. Our Senior Warden, Sandy Winger, is the individual charged with leadership until St. John's appoints a new rector. She can be contacted at srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or on her cell phone at 703-498-6990.

St. John's position on racism can be found on the home page of our website, www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Prayers and cards. If you have any requests for Sunday prayers, intercessory prayers, or a card for someone who is sick, please contact Barbara Olivere at prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

For questions about the parish, please contact Sandy Winger, Sr. Warden at 703-498-6990.

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**Be sure to join us next week when** The Rev. Julie D. Bryant, our new rector, begins her time with us.

